

# COBBETT'S WEEKLY REGISTER.

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## NOTICE.

The STAMPED REGISTER is now regularly published; and, therefore, it can be sent to any part of the Kingdom, postage free.

TO THE  
FARMERS OF THIS KINGDOM.

*On MR. WEBB HALL'S errors as to the cause of the distress of the Farmers; and on the injury which those errors have done, are doing, and, if not checked in their effects, must continue to do, to that class of men; to which is added, a proposition to Mr. Webb Hall, for laying the other side of the question fairly before the Farmers, as being the most likely means of enabling them to come to a sound conclusion, and thereby save themselves from utter and inevitable ruin.*

Cease to hear the instruction that causeth to err.

*Proverbs, Ch. 19. V. 27.*

*Bergh Apton, Norfolk, 12 Dec. 1821.*

GENTLEMEN,

To express any opinion hostile to the acts of the parliament; to

call its justice or its wisdom in question; to venture to hint at the necessity of a change in the men composing it, or in their principles or their manner of proceeding; either of these has, for many years past, been regarded, by the far greater part of you, as meriting hatred, reproach, and punishment the most severe. Now, however, the time is come, when you can, not only listen with patience to opinions hostile to the acts of this same parliament; when you can, not only hear its wisdom and justice called in question; but, when you can even call both in question yourselves, and that, too, in language full as strong as that of those *Radicals* whom you have armed

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yourselves to keep down and to reduce to silence.

I scorn to play the hypocrite : I scorn to disguise from you, that I have seen your sufferings with satisfaction. We cannot but be pleased to see those who have had no feeling for us ; who have encouraged and aided our persecutors ; who have applauded every act of cruelty committed against us ; who have made a sport and mockery of our ruin and anguish : we cannot, or, at least, I cannot, but be pleased to see these men suffer in their turn, and especially when the pains are inflicted by the very same hands that have inflicted the pains on us.

But, in your class are many persons whom I love and respect, and for whose particular welfare I am extremely anxious. Then, there are others amongst you, who have been *mised*, wholly deceived ; and, perhaps, the number is very small of those, who, out of *pure selfishness*, or *malignity*, were ready to pursue, even unto death, the suffering creatures

that were pressed by nakedness and hunger to utter their well-grounded complaints. Could I separate these hard-hearted, these diabolical wretches, from the main body, I would say, " an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth : " a slash for a slash : starvation for starvation. This is beyond my power. I must, in the present instance, take the whole class together ; and, if, in assisting to preserve the innocent, I do good to the guilty, I trust that justice will forgive me in the latter case on account of the homage I pay her in the former.

By reflections of this sort, and from having observed the general upright and manly conduct of the Farmers in the cause of our late cruelly-treated, virtuous and gallant Queen, I have been induced to make this effort to remove from your minds the errors inculcated by Mr. WEBB HALL, which errors, if still cherished for any length of time, must, in my opinion, cause the ruin of thousands upon thousands of Farmers, who

have, as yet, something that they might, by wise precautions, save from the all-devouring gulf. I know very well, that, at last, the weight will fall where it ought to fall, namely, on the landlords and the parsons; but, in the meanwhile, tens of thousands of farmers must be totally ruined, unless the errors, so industriously taught by Mr. Hall, be speedily removed from their minds.

Uniting the *Attorney* with the *large Farmer*, and joining to those capacities that of *Secretary to the Board of Agriculture*, it was very natural, that Mr. HALL should acquire great weight amongst you, and that his opinions, as to the cause of your distress, should be by your whole class listened to with great attention. This was, too, the more natural, as his doctrine was a *comforting* one. We always like those physicians and surgeons best who tell us that our maladies have *nothing dangerous* in them; that they can *easily cure* them, and without giving us pain. Mr. Hall was a professional gen-

tleman of this sort: he saw you in great anguish and in greater anxiety; he saw neither danger nor difficulty in your case; his remedy was at hand; it was simple; a mere act of parliament, which was to give instant relief and lasting health, and you *associated, subscribed and petitioned* accordingly.

There was another circumstance greatly in favour of Mr. Hall's influence over you. The *chain of connexion and correspondence*, which, as Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, he was enabled to form amongst you, gave rise to *county Associations*, all in correspondence with him; all looking up to him as a head; or leader; and, of course, all adopting his opinions, which opinions naturally spread throughout the whole class of farmers in every part of the kingdom. On the other hand, you could hear nothing in *opposition* to those opinions; nothing on the *other side*; nothing to enable you to judge whether he were right or wrong; for, as is noto-

rious, there has not been a pen in the kingdom moved on the other side of the question except mine, which could, from the very nature of things, have scarcely any influence with you, because its labours could not reach your eyes. Those few newspapers which opposed Mr. Hall, did it upon the ground of his project being *hostile to commerce and manufactures*; and not upon the ground of its being *useless to you*. They opposed him on the ground of his aiming at that which *would do injury to others*; and not upon the ground that he was aiming at that which *would do you no good*. They opposed him on the ground that he was seeking *benefit to you* through means that would ruin others; not upon the ground, that he was seeking to injure others, to irritate and inflame them against you, and, at the same time, *do you no possible good*.

Therefore, even the sort of *opposition* that has been made to him, except by myself, whom the far greater part of you have been

much too "*loyal*," too "*religious*" and too "*enlightened*" to read, has tended to strengthen and confirm his influence over you; to make you cling to his errors with additional pertinacity; and, though you have failed in all your attempts, though his errors have been refuted by *events* as well as by argument, to make you still push on in the course pointed out by him, who has thus, and with sensible and reflecting men too, gained a more complete victory over common sense, than is, perhaps, to be boasted of by any man of any age or any country.

Thus far as to the cause of your adopting the opinions of Mr. HALL: now, as to the opinions themselves. These are as follows: 1. *That the low price of your produce proceeds from importation of foreign corn*; 2. *That a Corn Bill is the only remedy*; 3. *That the return to Cash payments has nothing to do with the matter*.

Now, then, if you be not "*loyal*" and too violently opposed



to "*sedition and blasphemy*;" if you be not so much opposed to these as to deem it "*sedition and blasphemy*" to differ in opinion from the "*Chairman of the General Committee of Management for the Petitioners*," who, be it remembered, petitioned in vain; if your horror of "*sedition und blasphemy*" be not such as to make you shudder at the very thought of an opposition even to a *Secretary of the Board of Agriculture*, being, as he undoubtedly is, a part of that famous thing, which he himself calls, in the true official style, "*His Majesty's Government*;" if your "*loyalty*" and "*piety*" do not push you on to these lengths, pray accompany me in a fair examination of these opinions of Mr. WEBB HALL.

FIRST; *That the low price of your produce proceeds from importation of foreign corn.* There is no doubt, that, if foreign corn be brought into our market, it will, for the moment, lower the price of our corn then in market; and, if the ports had always re-

mained open for such importation, there might have been *some show of reason* wherein to assert, that the importation had caused *the whole of the fall in the price of your corn*; but, when it is well known, that no corn (except *oats* for a few weeks in 1820) has been imported, since the importation which took place in February 1819, how is it possible for any man to make such an assertion; and that, too, while the price of your corn has been getting lower and lower in proportion as the time has got distant from the period of the importation? Is it possible, that corn, imported in the early part of 1819, can have caused this depression of price at the close of 1821?

And, as to the *quantity imported*, what was it in comparison to the whole quantity raised and consumed? Let us hear Mr. WEBB HALL himself upon this subject. In his evidence before the Committee (page 168,) he says, that *thirty millions of bushels of corn and grain were imported at the*

period referred to ; and that this corn and grain have been part of the stock consuming and on hand from that time to *this* (March 1821.) Now, observe ; "*corn and grain*" include *oats, barley, peas, beans* and some other things, as well as *wheat*. But, for argument's sake, and to give Mr. HALL all possible advantage, let us suppose it to have been thirty millions of bushels of *wheat*. We have now got, without any more importations, to December 1821 ; and, you will all agree, that there cannot be, according to the present law, any more importations *before next harvest be over*. This will bring us to the end of *one hundred and eighty-four weeks* without importation. Now, at *five* persons to a family, there are full *three millions of families in this kingdom*. Divide this wheat amongst them ; and you have *ten bushels to a family*, or not quite *three and a half pints* of wheat to each family per week ! And this, at the very most, does not form a *fifteenth part of their*

*consumption*. For, though some families in England consume little bread, and some in Ireland none at all, there are a very great number, each of which consumed twice or thrice the quantity of fifteen times three pints and a half per week.

Is it not, then, wild indeed, to ascribe the fall of price to this importation ? Is it not *impossible*, manifestly impossible, that the importation can have had any thing more than a trifling effect, compared with the effect that has been, some how or other, produced ? Can the addition of one *fifteenth* to the quantity of wheat have brought down the price of it to *one half*, and that, too, after a blighted crop and bad harvest ; and, moreover, when this trifling, this insignificant, addition, was made *almost three years ago* ? Really, gentlemen, to put such questions to you is almost to insult your understandings.

Mr. HALL and his adherents, Mr. ELLMAN, Mr. W. LOTT, and others (not excepting Mr. Gooch, Mr. Curwen, Mr. Western, and

many more), seem to imagine, that when corn is brought from abroad, it *takes, according to its amount, just so much money away from being laid out in home-corn.*

Error, when once adopted, is very persevering; but, is it, then, *possible*, that the great body of English farmers can *really believe* this? Do you not know, that it is an *exchange* that is going on of foreign corn for *manufactures*? Now, these are made out of the produce of the land of England, Ireland and Scotland, in great part. And, observe, if the goods were not exported in exchange for the corn, *they would not be made*, and, of course, the amount of them would never be laid out in *your corn*.

But, again; what is the *amount* of the importation, so pertinaciously complained of? Mr. WILLIAM ILOTT of Abbey Milton in Dorsetshire, who has just called upon the farmers of Dorset, Hants and Wilts to come forward, associate and subscribe, for the purpose of again *petitioning for a Corn-Bill*,

and who is so firm an adherent of Mr. WEBB HALL as to quote his assertions and maxims as if they were gospel-truths: this gentleman has observed, that the farm-produce of the kingdom amounted to *two hundred and sixteen millions* a year before the importation of 1819; and, that, now, it amounts to only *one hundred and eight millions*. Now, gentlemen, bear in mind, the gross importation was that of *thirty millions of bushels of wheat*, amounting, let us suppose, to *fifteen millions* of pounds. What, then, could the bringing in of *fifteen millions* worth of wheat take away from you a *hundred and eight millions* of money, which would otherwise have been laid out in *your produce*? But, hold! This is not all; for this *fifteen millions* worth of imported wheat is to be spread over nearly *four years*; so that here is Mr. WILLIAM ILOTT imputing the taking of about *three hundred millions of pounds* from you by the mere bringing in of *fifteen millions* worth of foreign wheat!

But, as if this were not sufficient to convince any human being that Mr. HALL is in error, can this importation of corn and grain, in 1819, have been the cause of the fall, in 1821, of the prices of *oxen, cows, sheep, pigs, timber and underwood*! I beg Mr. HALL to be assured, that I mean nothing personal, nothing uncivil, towards him; but, in spite of my wishes, I can scarcely bring myself to treat these his extraordinary assertions with any degree of seriousness; and I here leave this part of the subject to the operation of your natural good sense, rather than suffer myself to fall into that strain of commentary from which, were I not to stop here, it would be next to impossible for me to be preserved even by the most anxious desire to practise forbearance.

It being clear, then, gentlemen, that the importation of corn and grain has *not been the cause of the present low prices* in any degree worth notice, how is a Corn Bill, of any description, to operate as

a *remedy* for those low prices? The utmost a Corn Bill can do, is, to *prohibit importation*, is to give you a *complete monopoly*; and that you have *now*, and must have until next harvest at any rate. Do you expect a *worse* crop and harvest? And, must it not be a *great deal worse* before it raises the average of wheat *above 10s. a bushel*? What *good*, then, can a Corn Bill do you, even though it contained a complete, entire, permanent and perpetual *prohibition*?

Gentlemen, men of sense, men of sound understandings, as you generally are, pray reflect, and answer this question. Mr. HALL, who, according to his *evidence* (on which, I am sure, he cannot wish me to dwell in a particular manner), proposes a *permanent duty* on the import of wheat of *five shillings a bushel*; and on that of other grain in proportion. He says, that some of the petitioners wished for a *higher duty*! And, astonishing as is the fact, he really, by his subsequent pub-



lications, appears to have been disappointed that such a measure was rejected! You will observe, that this was to be an *entry-duty*; so that no wheat could have been brought in even for *re-exportation* without paying this duty; and this, according to his own evidence, is more than the price of the wheat when imported! But, suppose the parliament to have been willing to make such an enormous sacrifice of commerce; what *good* would the measure have done you? It would have been a virtual prohibition; and that you have now. And, pray, what remedy, then, could you have had for those *low prices*, of which you now complain, and which get lower and lower as you get further and further off from the period when corn and grain were last imported?

Need I add a word in order to convince you, that a Corn Bill, as a *remedy for your low prices*, is an illusion! But, some persons have said, and Mr. ELLMAN, Junior, in particular, that the trade

in foreign Corn withdraws money, that would otherwise be employed by corn-dealers in the purchase of *home corn*. Now, the *rate of price* depends on two things; first, *on the proportion between the quantity of a thing and the want of a thing*, and, second, *on the proportion that the quantity of money in circulation bears to the number and amount of money transactions*. How, then, can the dealings in foreign corn by our merchants affect the rate of your prices?

Or, if those dealings were to be allowed to affect your prices, what reason would there be for your singling out corn-dealers from all other merchants? Why not complain that money is diverted from you by the dealers in any other goods imported for re-exportation?

Why not extend your complaints to coffee, sugar, pepper, and an endless variety of articles; seeing that a pound drawn away from you through any of these channels is just *as much* a pound drawn away from you as a pound used in the dealings in foreign corn?

Having, I hope, made it clear to you, that no restraint, no limitation, no tax, no prohibition, as to the importation of foreign corn, could possibly afford you the smallest relief, or chance of relief, from any evils which you experience from *low prices*; having shown, and I think undeniably, that Mr. WEBB HALL is wholly in error, in asserting that the low price of your produce proceeds from the importation of foreign corn, and that a *Corn-Bill* is the remedy; let me now pray your attention to a short statement of the *true cause of low prices*; namely, the endeavour that the parliament (for, it is the *parliament*, and not the *ministry* alone) has been using, and is still using, to force the Country back to gold in the place of paper.

It is with unaffected regret that I here find myself compelled to refer in a particular manner to what Mr. WEBB HALL has said upon this part of the subject; but, the errors which he has inculcated are, in my view of the matter, of

so much importance, and so manifestly pregnant with disappointment, chagrin, loss and ruin to you, that I should deem it an unwarrantable stretch of personal civility, and, indeed, an inexcusable dereliction of duty, were I, upon this occasion, to leave these errors unexposed, however painful may be the performance of that duty.

Gentlemen, I have, a few minutes back, had occasion to observe to you, that the *rate* at which goods are sold depends on two things; *first*, on the proportion between the quantity of the goods to be sold and the call, or demand, for the goods. *Second*, on the proportion the quantity of money in general circulation, in any country, bears to the number and amount of money transactions in that country.

To illustrate the *first* of these principles, let us suppose ten thousand sheep penned for sale at any particular fair, which is attended by purchasers who want more than that number of sheep;

and, at another, the same number of sheep, penned at another fair, which is attended by purchasers who want *less* than that number of sheep. It is clear, daily experience teaches you all, that, in the former case, the sheep, though the same in number and in quality, would fetch a *higher price* in the former than in the latter case; and that, though of precisely the same intrinsic value, they would, in the common use of the words, be *worth more* in the former case than in the latter.

To illustrate the *second* principle, which, as to our present purpose, is much the most important of the two, let us suppose the same ten thousand sheep at the same fair, with purchasers wanting the whole of the ten thousand, and those purchasers having *twenty thousand pounds* in their pockets, being what they can devote to the purchase of sheep at this fair; and, then let us suppose another fair at the same place, with the same purchasers, wanting the whole of the ten thousand sheep

as before, but having *ten thousand*, instead of *twenty thousand*, pounds, being all that they can devote to the purchase of sheep at this fair. Is it not clear, that, in the former case, the sheep would sell on an average for *forty shillings* a head, and, in the latter case, for only *twenty*?

This is the principle, gentlemen, for you to keep in your eye; and, if you do keep it in your eye, and only apply it, with a trifling portion of its obvious ramifications, to the subject before us, I may safely leave to your own minds the detection of the dangerous and ruinous errors, of which I am presently proceeding more particularly to speak, and to the adoption of which you have unsuspectingly been led by Mr. WEBB HALL; errors into which, doubtless, that gentleman must have been led by great warmth of zeal unchastened by a due degree of knowledge and reflection.

The principle, just laid down and illustrated, is applicable to all the dealings in society, whatever

may be the article and whatever the amount; it extends itself over the whole of the transactions of a nation as over those of a single fair. Hence it follows, that, when the amount of the circulating money, in any country, becomes, from whatever cause, *less* in nominal amount than it has been, *all prices*, and particularly those of articles in general use, like your produce, *must fall*. There being less money in circulation in the country, there is less to carry to shop, to fair, to market; there is less to be laid out in sheep, corn, pigs; and less to lay out in every thing: of course all *prices fall*, as we have seen in the case of the sheep at the fair, when there were only *ten* thousand, instead of *twenty* thousand, pounds, to be laid out in sheep.

Here, then, we approach the point on which I am anxious to fix your attention: here we touch the real and only cause of that *fall in prices*, which is working your ruin, and which must com-

plete that ruin, unless you speedily turn from and abandon the errors into which you have been led, unintentionally, doubtless, on his part, by the "Chairman of the Committee of Managers."

I am sure, gentlemen, that it is wholly unnecessary for me to ask you, whether the quantity of circulating money have not been greatly reduced, since 1814, and especially since 1819, and more especially, still, since the *month of May last*. You know well, that it has: you know, that country bankers have not one half of the quantity in circulation that they had in circulation previous to the year 1814. This, then, is clearly the *immediate cause of the fall of prices*. Therefore, the question, next to be considered, is, whether the quantity of money in circulation be likely to be, or *can* be, increased; for, unless it can, prices, on an average of seasons, *cannot rise*.

In order to be able to answer this question, we must first in-



quire *what has been the cause* of the *lessening* of the quantity of money? This cause is, the measures adopted by the parliament to return to cash-payments; a cause that has been at work from 1814 to the present day; a cause which is yet at work; a cause which will continue to work in the lowering of prices until, in May 1823, Mr. PEEL'S Bill shall have attained the climax of its effect.

During the war, cash-payments were suspended by law, and, of course, there was no check to the issue of paper-money. But, the law, which suspended cash-payments, provided for their resumption in *six months after the peace*. Therefore the moment peace came, all the issuers of paper money drew in part of their paper, in order to be prepared for money payments. The suspension of cash payments was put off by act after act, until 1819; but then Mr. Peel's Bill was passed; and that brought the money affairs of the country to a crisis. The Bill

commands, that, in 1823, every bank note, of every description, shall be paid in gold upon demand. This, therefore, has compelled the Bank of England to contract its issues, the country bankers to do the same; and has produced that diminution of the quantity of circulating money, which has been the cause, and the sole cause, of the fall in the prices of your produce, of the virtual and shocking violation of all leases and other contracts for time, and of all that varied ruin which now stares so many of you in the face.

Here, Gentlemen, we have a cause, a great and all-pervading cause, adequate to the terrible effects, which you, as renters, feel. And yet, Mr. WEBB HALL, with the cause plain before his eyes, with these effects appealing to his heart, still calls upon you to *petition for a Corn Bill as a remedy*; still insists that the importation of *three and a half pints of wheat per week to each family*, during the last three years, has

been the only cause of all these mighty and frightful consequences; and says, and that, too, with all apparent coolness and deliberation in his remarks on the Agricultural Report, that, if the foreign corn had been kept out of the country, "the resumption of cash payments would have passed equally unnoticed and unfelt by this nation." Yes; "*unnoticed*" even, though it is now clear, I trust, to you, as it is that two and two make four, that the very act, which commanded a return to cash payments, was an act to lessen the quantity of circulating money; to reduce prices one half or more; to double, in fact, the amount of the then taxes, rents and tithes; and to condemn to utter ruin all men bound by bond, mortgage, or lease! Here, gentlemen, are effects to be produced by the importation of as much corn in *three years* as must have been consumed in *seven weeks*! And you are called upon to seek, when you are already half ruined, *a remedy* in a measure to prevent

a pitiful competition like this; and "*a remedy*," too, which cannot possibly have any application, till another whole year of increasing desolation have passed over your heads!

Gentlemen, it is much more agreeable to me to state to you such opinions and to offer you such advice as appears to me calculated to do you good, than it is to dilate on the errors that have already been so fatal to you. I therefore, in conclusion, have to say, that my opinion is, that prices, barring the effect of seasons, will continue to decline until after May 1823; that all the country bank paper will, even before that day, have disappeared; and that farm produce will then have fallen to the mark, of good wheat at *four shillings a bushel* on an average of seasons, and of South-Down Ewes at *fifteen shillings a head*. Of course, my earnest advice is, that you should *take* no land and no tithes, and *keep* none, that you can avoid keeping, upon any cal-

ulation of prices higher than these.

To *petition parliament* to pass a Corn-Bill, even if such a bill could do you any good, would be of *no use*. The parliament will not pass such a bill. It cannot pass such a bill without outraging the feelings of every other class in the community; and this, at this moment, is what it is not prepared to do. But, if you must apply to parliament, apply to it for a law to *reduce your rents* in cases where you *hold by lease*! A motion has been made in the *Court of Chancery* for the reduction of the rent of a farm. It was maintained upon the ground, *that money had been, by act of parliament, raised in value since the lease was signed*. Very good ground. The application was, by the Lord Chancellor, referred to the Master in Chancery. How it will terminate I know not; but, it clearly points out to you the path that you have to pursue. Those of you who are not bound by lease have little of difficulty to

encounter. You have only to quit your farms, or to keep them at such a rent as you can afford to give, wheat being at *four shillings a bushel* and South-Down ewes at *fifteen shillings a head*. If your calculations go higher, you will be disappointed, and, in the end, ruined; for, to this standard the prices of your produce must come. You will always bear in mind, that your ruin, as far as it has gone, has been occasioned by *acts of parliament*. Those acts have, in fact, *doubled your rents*. If you pray for an act to reduce the rents, your object is *rational*, at least; but, to petition for a Corn-bill is, besides the utter inutility of it, absurd and contemptible.

Without any possible pecuniary interest of my own, to be affected by your conduct or your fate, and with the wish simply to see you act the part of sensible men and preserve yourselves from complete ruin,

I remain your Friend,

WM. COBBETT.

TO MR. WEBB HALL.

SIR,

THE above Letter will speak for itself. You, or a Committee, have expended, and, in your view of the matter, for the best purposes, considerable sums of money, in order to obtain a Corn Bill. I am of opinion, that all your efforts, which are, I perceive, to be renewed, are founded in error, and have tended, and do tend, to do great and lasting injury to the Farmers. I think that the above Letter, if read by them, would dissipate the error, and prevent further injury from that cause. I therefore propose to you to circulate, in the several counties, through the channels that you have so open to you, a *thousand copies of the above Letter in each county*, which thousand copies I will supply you with at the price of *four pounds*, leaving rather a loss than a profit to myself.

This is a proposition so reasonable, that I hope you will not reject it; and, indeed, I have no fear of such rejection. If I have not the good fortune to have convinced you; still the case is of such immense importance, the happiness and misery of so many persons are involved in it, that I will not suffer myself to fear your readiness and even eagerness to afford every means in your power of laying before the parties interested a view of both sides of the question.

A manuscript copy of this Letter is sent by post, along with the stamped Register containing this; and, I request you to favour me with an answer to the above proposition, on, or before, the *twentieth* instant.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient and

Most humble Servant,

WM. COBBETT.

I SEE, that there is a general stir in the counties for getting up



Meetings of *Farmers* to petition for a Corn-Bill. I am much obliged to the gentleman who sent me the *Salisbury Paper*, containing the call of Mr. LOTT, that stanch Disciple of Mr. Webb Hall; and I shall be glad to get intelligence of the time and place of meeting of any of these bodies of men; who are all dupes of the Landlords and Tithe-letters, who are thrusting the *Farmers* on to petition for a corn-bill, for the double chance of getting something done in reality, and of, at least, feeding the *renters* with hopes, and thereby getting them to keep their lands and tithes without reduction of rents.—The farmers have not, and never had, any interest in a corn-bill. The Landlord and the Parson had, and have; but the *renter*, unless he be bound by lease, need not wish for high prices. He must, if he get high prices, pay high rent. All his out-goings must be high, except another depreciation of the money enable him to rob the labourer, rather than see which

repeated, it would be better for us to see the country laid waste.—I think it likely, that, as I said long ago, the far greater part of the farmers, the *rack renters* (not the few leaseholders that are left) will be brought completely down; aye, even to the poor-house. A couple of years will nearly do the job. Mr. WEBB HALL has done a great deal to help them down by keeping their eyes fixed on a false ground of hope. If they could all see, that *Peel's Bill* is causing their ruin, how soon they would cut and run! But, this they do not and will not see, still it be too late. When they get into the poor-house, they will be very enlightened political economists: much more enlightened than the *Ozacle* and *Brougham* and his brother *Edinburgh Reviewers*. Spare diet is excellent for keeping the mind clear. When they get the smell of the "mines" quite out of their noses, they will see all about the matter as clearly as my Disciples now do; only their sight will come a little too late.

## LORD KENYON!

THE following is as pretty a little story, relating to the "*respectable part* of the press," as one would wish to have *come out*. I will insert this *Police Report*, just as I find it in the *Saint James's Chronicle*; and then I will make some remarks on it. Here we have a *Lord*, a *Peer*, not only one of the "*Grand Council of the Nation*," but one of our *hereditary* law-makers and one of the *hereditary* Council of the Crown, published forth to the world, set out at full length and in broad day; nay, in a police-report, as a *partner in the proprietorship of a newspaper*; and, of course, as a sharer in all the *profits*, whether of whole papers, columns, paragraphs, or advertisements! The report is as follows:

*Bow-street*.—On Saturday a messenger came to Sir Richard Birnie from the *True Briton* Office, in the Strand, to inquire if he had authorized two of his Officers to break open the door for the pur-

pose of taking forcible possession of the premises; as they had stated that they had his orders to that effect, and had accordingly attempted to carry them into execution.

Sir Richard Birnie said he had done no such thing, and immediately sent down to the Strand, to know if any of the officers belonging to this Office had presumed to do what was stated. The messenger brought back word that *two constables* had broken open the door; but neither of them belonged to Bow-street.

In a few minutes afterwards, another person arrived to make a similar inquiry, and presently a third, a fourth, and a fifth. By this time it seemed evident that the possession of the premises was *fiercely disputed*. Sir R. Birnie received a letter from Lord Kenyon, complaining that forcible possession of a house of which his Lordship was proprietor was held by a person who was merely his Lordship's servant.

Sir Richard declined all interference in a case where the right of possession was contended.

The house, it seemed, was now converted into a fortress; and the compositors, pressmen, and devils, into a garrison, from which expresses continued to arrive at the Office every five minutes. At length Mr. Stockdale, one of the proprietors of the paper, appeared, followed by some other persons, and complained to the Magistrates that

a person who had been a partner of his held forcible possession of a house of which Lord Kenyon was the proprietor; and in pursuance of his Lordship's directions, he (Mr. Stockdale) had brought two constables, who forced open the door; but meeting with a greater force inside, they were expelled with violence and ill-treated. His friend, Mr. Swift, he said, had been struck, and very much hurt.

The Magistrate said that he could not enter into the question of right of possession; but if any person had been assaulted, he would of course grant a warrant against the party who had so assaulted him.

Mr. Swift now came forward, appearing very lame, and stated that he was a Barrister, and had accompanied Mr. Stockdale into the house when the door was found open, and was there struck by two men whose names he did not know, but whose persons he could identify. He had also, he added, been collared by Mr. Merle, the person illegally holding possession.

A warrant was accordingly issued against those three individuals.

They had no sooner left the Office than Mr. Westmacott, and a party of Mr. Merle's friends, replaced them. Mr. Westmacott asked Sir Richard Birnie if he had granted a warrant against Mr. Merle?

Sir Richard said he had; and

asked how he came to keep forcible possession of those premises?

Mr. Westmacott replied, that he was justified in doing so, as he was the proprietor of them.

Sir R. Birnie observed, that Lord Kenyon had expressly stated that his Lordship was the proprietor.

Mr. Westmacott answered, that he would have no hesitation in saying that his Lordship was wrong. His Lordship certainly deceived himself in stating the facts contained in his letter. *He was merely one of the three partners, namely, his Lordship, Mr. Stockdale, and Mr. Merle, of whom Mr. Merle was the conducting partner, and had been in possession of the house for 18 months past.*

Mr. Stockdale now re-entered the Office, and informed the magistrates that the warrant could not be executed, as the other party would not open the door.

Magistrate—Well, Sir, we cannot help that.

Mr. Westmacott—Their object is to prevent the publication of the paper.

Mr. Stockdale—No such thing: his Lordship's and our object is to promote the publication of the paper.

Mr. Westmacott—Give me the names of the persons who, you say, have committed an assault, and they shall give bail instantly.

Mr. Stockdale—We cannot do that; for some persons have assaulted Mr. Swift, whose names he

does not know.—Am I contented with what is done, your Worship?

Magistrate—You are best judge of that, Sir. We can do nothing more. The warrant is in the hands of an officer who will do his duty.

The parties then withdrew, it being first understood that they were again to attend in the evening, when Sir R. Birnie suggested to Mr. Stockdale, *it would be right that Lord Kenyon should be present.*

Now, in the first place, it would be right to ascertain, whose names are recorded at the *Stamp Office* as those of the proprietors! If *Kenyon's* and *Stockdale's* be not; or, if *Kenyon's* be not, and *Merle's* be, how is *Kenyon* to make it out, that *Merle* was merely his servant? Where there are *partners*, the law demands, that *two* of the *principal* proprietors shall go to the Office, *make oath of the fact*; and that that oath shall be recorded at the Office. Now, here were *three* partners on the day of the siege, as Mr. *Westmacott* says; and *Stockdale* says, that *Merle* had been a partner with *Kenyon* and himself. Either *Merle* had ceased to be a partner with *Stockdale* and *Kenyon*; or he had not.

If he had, *Kenyon's* name must, on the day of the siege, have been recorded at the *Stamp Office*, or *Kenyon* was guilty of a breach of the law, in publishing a newspaper without going and recording his name. If *Merle* had not ceased to be a partner, how came *Kenyon* to assert, in a letter to the Police Magistrate too, that *Merle* was merely his servant? We shall probably hear something further in explanation of this matter. At present *Kenyon* cuts but an awkward figure.

So much for the *legal* part of the thing: now as to the *political* part. It is, as far as I know, the first time that we have possessed *proof on oath* of a partnership of this sort in a *Lord*. We may, for many reasons, have supposed the existence of such things, in many cases; but this is, I believe, the first time, that we have had the *legal proof* of such a political connexion. The *language* of the "*respectable part of the press*;" the praises it bestows; the praises it receives from *certain quarters*;



the tendency of its labours; and especially its *incomparable stupidity*: all these would lead one to conclude, that we have now seen exposed nothing more than a mere *specimen* of a kind of connexion in trade far from being in reality very rare. I have heard of a man, who, in 1819, actually hired the *most accomplished rogue* in England to write a pamphlet, full of lies, against me, and who sent it off by thousands to be circulated in WALES! This might be a *little worse*, to be sure, than some other things that such men daily do; but not much. The "respectable part of the press" is one mass of rubbish; and how it keeps itself up at all, now that sevenpence will buy *two pounds of meat*, is truly astonishing.

However, we shall, most likely, have a sequel to this affair of *Kenyon, Stockdale, and Merle*, the three partners of the "*True Briton*," which was a child of *Old George Rose*, and which is still in *very worthy hands*. The three partners are *truly worthy*

*of each other*; and, let us hope, that, when their *passion is over*, they will, like others of the same description, kiss and be friends, and not push things any more to these scandalous extremities.

TO

## THE RADICALS:

*On the necessity of supporting the Fundholders against the attempts of designing and evil-minded Landlords and Farmers.*

## LETTER II.

FRIENDS AND COUNTRYMEN,

WHEN the owl and the bat mourn, the lark and the linnet sing; and, when Yeomanry "Galvaltry" weep, Radicals may well rejoice. I always insisted, that we were the only truly "*loyal*;" and that will now be found by His Majesty, and by those Ministers whom we have to thank for having passed Peel's *immortal Bill*, which, as I told you at the time it would, is now carrying us on swiftly towards the happy moment of deliverance.

It is necessary that we keep ourselves *prepared* for supporting "*His Majesty's Government*" and the *Fundlords* against the attempts of evil-minded landlords and farmers, who are deluding the rest of that body of men into most seditious and even treasonable deeds. Please to bear in mind what I said in my *first letter*; and, let us bear in mind, too, the motto of our foes, of these our most deadly foes; that, "*when bad men conspire, the good must combine.*" We must be prepared for *petitioning*, and for using all the means in our power, to "*keep down*" these *disturbers*, these *agitators*, these evil-disposed persons, who are deluding "misguided" creatures to their ruin. I have no fear for the *result*, indeed; for, if the "*Gavalttry*" should, as Ellman the younger threatened, in his Letter to His Majesty's Prime Minister; if they should become audacious, we can easily settle them; and that, too, without any help from our brothers of the standing army or militia.

We could drum them into tranquillity with only a few broomsticks or hedge-stakes.

However, they will know better than go to the length of calling us forth. They will let us eat our cheap victuals in quiet. But, we must be prepared for counteracting the disaffected, who are now endeavouring to stir up opposition to all lawful authority; who are crying out against *taxes*, *tithes*, and against the acts, not only of the ministers, but of the *parliament itself*; and who openly avow, in many places, the "*treasonable design*" of destroying the "*credit of the country*" by an attack on that "*public faith*," by which alone that "*credit*" is supported!

Friends and Countrymen, in these sacred names I call upon you to be *now vigilant*, *now constantly on the watch*, *now active!* Things are come nearly round. And now is the time for you to be well prepared. The Ministers have passed, or got to be passed, a law, the tendency of which is twofold: *to make food*

*cheap, and to bring down the landlord and the parson and the "gavaltry;" to raise the labourer and to sink the borough-blade and his adherents. God bless His Majesty for choosing and keeping such ministers! The borough-blades and the "gavaltry" heroes wish to destroy the effect of this blessed, this, I had almost called it, holy law; and, it is for us to defeat the daring, the impious design.*

*I beg you to keep my first letter in view. I there laid down the principles, upon which we now proceed; which are, indeed, our old, fixed principles. Keeping that Letter always in view, let us now take a look at the present movements of the designing landlords and farmers. I have often enough had to observe on the conduct of the three hundred newspapers, all of which, as if paid for the purpose, have kept a profound silence as to the agonies of the system. However, the stir amongst the half crazy farmers does now begin to make the*

*country papers open a little upon the fundholders. Sometimes insly hints. The "Gloucestershire Associated Farmers" . . . By the by, what glorious sport for us of the condemned, Radical tribe, to see the farmers, yea, the yeomanry "Gavaltry," penned up in rooms by Six Acts! They would fain have open air meetings, but they dare not! They invite ALL persons to join them in petitioning! Ah! ye Nabals, we invited you in vain! Now you feel, do you? Now you have to complain! And Six Acts restrain you! Thus is the rod you prayed for for us, fallen on your own backs! . . . The "associated farmers of Gloucestershire," with Mr. WEBB HALL at their head, just observe, in their petition, that, if they do not get relief, the fundholder cannot be paid! Thank you, gentlemen; but, he can and shall, in spite of you, unless we have a reform, which would clear the way for doing all parties justice.—Mr. WM. LOTT, the "agitator" of Dorset, Wilts and Hants; the*

"designing" Mr. Wm. Ilott says, in his address to the "deluded" (*really deluded*) in those counties, "surely this is a subject worthy the consideration of the landholder as well as the farmer and grazier; for both they and their tenants are becoming daily of less account in the eyes of the present *wise* generation of *fundholders*."— Witty! Mr. Wm. Ilott is witty. But, you see, here is a *slap* at our friends of the 'Change: at that Debt (oh, the dear thing!) without which we might hang ourselves in despair.

The *Shrewsbury* paper has a dead set at our friends. It calls upon the *Landlord* to reduce his rents and to *insist* on the fundholder *reducing his interest!* *Insist!* Aye, "to *compel* the government to reduce the interest." This is being as bad as Mr. Wm. Ilott. This is *treason*; and I will prove it. The government cannot reduce the interest without an *act of parliament*. Thus, then, here is an

open instigation to *compel the parliament to do something*. This is to "*overawe*" the parliament by "*threats*;" and this is *high treason* by the act of 1796 (I think it was) renewed in 1817! Come, come! Messieurs Yeomanry "Gavalltry:" none of your *compellings*, if you please. We can find judges and juries and jailors and hangmen for you as well as for others, if you go to the playing of any of your pranks!

It is of the first importance that we keep in view the *workings* of these gentry. Our turn is now come to *watch their movements*. They complain of *low prices*; and, that we may have some enjoyment after all our cruel pains, let us hear a little of their *wailings*. The dying screech of the wounded hawk is sweetest music to the ears of the feathered throng.

*From the Bath Journal, 3 Dec.*

Pool fair, Montgomeryshire, on Friday was largely supplied with all kinds of live stock, excepting horses. Every article sold *astonishingly low*; sucking pigs at 1s. each!



—At a sale of farming stock lately, near Pool, a quantity of wheat in the straw which would yield *fifty strikes*, was knocked down for 8*l.*, about 2*s.* 7*d.* per strike!

*From the Bath Herald, 1 Dec.*

Monmouth Autumnal fair, on Thursday last, furnished another proof of the distressed state of the agricultural interest. There were more cattle in the market than were ever seen at any former period; not only the Over Monnow Town and Monnow-street, but even the avenues leading from them, were completely filled, and some even stood in the Market-place. Of fat beasts there were not many, but what might be deemed fleshy were more numerous; the price fell more than 4*l.* in 20*l.* for what they sold for last September; and, with respect to lean stock, the market was as low as the beasts were numerous. Of the dulness of sale, an opinion may be formed from the circumstance, that on the evening preceding the fair this time twelve months, 28 respectable agriculturists and dealers assembled together at the same inn; whilst, on the eve of the present, only four sat down at the inn. There was a considerable quantity of cheese exposed for sale; best-making averaged from 54*s.* to 56*s.* per cwt. family from 44*s.* to 45*s.* and a great portion of it was sold. The trading interests of the town felt the consequences,

being no better employed than on ordinary days of the week.—At Shaftesbury, on Friday, a greater number of sheep were penned than usual, and many were sold at low prices; lambs fetched from 3*s.* to 12*s.*; one pen of ewes fetched no more than 3*s.* per head.—Yeovil, on Monday, was numerously supplied with all kinds of stock; but the prices which prevailed, we are sorry to state, were so ruinously low, that unless some speedy assistance be afforded to the farmer, the state of agriculture will be most deplorable. A gang of pickpockets infested the fair, and succeeded in robbing several persons of considerable sums.—At Martinstown, on Thursday, there was a greater quantity of sheep penned than was ever known, and such a dull fair was never witnessed. Lambs fetched from 5*s.* to 10*s.*; ewes in lamb, 15*s.* to 18*s.*; fine wethers offered at 15*s.* to 20*s.* but no buyers to be found.

Well! and what of all that!

Who has any right to complain of that? No one, my friends, for low prices are what we want. But, say these evil-disposed men, we have *taxes* to pay and the interest of a Debt. Well! Who contracted the Debt? Did you not contract it yourselves? WE had nothing to do with the matter.

WE wanted it *not to be contracted!* And, pray, do recollect, that several *millions of this Debt* have been contracted to get money to give to *yourselves* as yeomanry “gavaltry!” And that the far greater part of the money has been expended for the openly avowed object of preventing what you have called revolution, and what we have called reform! Pray bear these things in mind.

*Surrey and Hampshire* loyal “gavaltry,” list, O list! to me one moment, while I “speak daggers to you, though I will use none.” In the month of February, 1817, while the power-of-imprisonment Bill was passing in the unreformed parliament, there was a *Meeting of Reformers on Portsdown Hill*. I, at that meeting, moved a petition, which was agreed to, and signed upon that bleak, naked Hill, in that cold and bleak month, by four thousand men. While WE were thus engaged, YOU, mounted on your horses, your *swords drawn*, and your pistols

*loaded with ball cartridge*, were drawn up and capering about in the valleys and on the sides of the Hill. Some of you had been sent even from *Farnham* in Surrey. One of you, who is, perhaps, now alive, came up to me at *Horndean*, and gave me *one of the bullets* that he had just drawn out of his pistol. I gave it, with its history, to a friend in America! Surrey and Hampshire “gavaltry,” how do you *feel now*? And, remember, you have only *begun* to feel! In that petition, what did we pray for? Why, as the records of parliament will show, for a *reduction* of the army, and of *salaries, pensions, sinecures, and grants*; for a *reduction of the interest of the Debt*; and, for a *reform of the Commons' House of Parliament*. This is what we prayed for; and it was when we were met to put up this prayer, that you were *ready for us* with your *drawn sabres* and *loaded pistols*! I say no more to you, only that we are now *ready for you*!

From these gallant “gavaltry”

let us now, my friends, turn to these *Hott's faction's* invitation to the people in the West. Here it is in their own words, taken from the Salisbury slaves' paper.

"To the Proprietors and Occupiers of Land, and all others interested in the welfare of Agriculture in the counties of Dorset, Hants, and Wilts, whose views are favourable for the *Protection of Agriculture against the importation of foreign produce, duty free*, and for an open trade at all times, with *countervailing duties* equal to the difference of expence in raising produce here and in other countries from whence such produce is imported, are respectfully requested to become Members and Subscribers to THE DORSETSHIRE and adjacent parts of HANTS and WILTS ASSOCIATION.—N.B. Gentlemen wishing to become Subscribers will be pleased to signify such their intention, and remit the same by letter (free of postage) to either of the following, namely:—William Clapcott, Esq. Littledown-house, near Christchurch, Hants; Thos. King, Esq. Alvediston, near Shaftesbury, Dorset; Edwin Andrews, Esq. Shroton, near Blandford, Dorset; or to Mr. William Hott, Abbey Milton, near Blandford, Dorset.—Should a sufficient number of Gentlemen come forward to support this Association, a General Meeting

will be called, by Advertisement, to consider of the *best means to be adopted during the next Session of Parliament.*

*By order of the Committee of Management,*

E. S. HOTT, Sec.

Blandford, Nov. 24, 1821.

So, here we have a "*Committee of Management*," issuing its "*Orders*." This Committee is a body of *delegates*, composed of men sent from the several Counties! The proposed Meeting is to consider of the "*best means to be adopted during the next Session of Parliament*;" almost the very words of the notice calling the Manchester Meeting of 16th August! And, one of these men, in his address to the deluded, published in the same paper, grows still bolder, and, indeed, he becomes, in some parts of it, "*highly seditious*," and might be prosecuted as a seditious libeller, as I shall presently show. He sets out as follows:

"Gentlemen,—Since I last addressed you on the Agricultural Question in this respectable Journal, things have still retrograded from bad to worse. It is heart-rending to reflect how much is and has been suffered, and how many worthy and industrious men have been and must be ruined. New wheat is almost unsaleable at any price; it has been selling from 3s. to 5s. per bushel;

some few parcels of superior quality now only reach from 7s. to 8s. Barley is equally as low, and almost unsaleable. As for the cattle and sheep markets, they are, if possible, worse than the corn markets; best beef and mutton selling at 4d. pr. lb. fat pigs in the same proportion. So much, Gentlemen, for leaving 'things to find their own level,' as recommended by the noble Lord Liverpool in his speech on the Agricultural Question. The *absurdity* of this doctrine must now be so apparent to every reflecting man, that it is only a *waste of ink* to notice it farther."

What! accuse the prime Minister, that prime cock of all cocks, of *absurdity*? Now what say *Six Acts*? That, if any one utter by writing, printing, or publishing, words, *tending* to bring the government into *contempt*, he shall be deemed a "seditious libeller," and shall be liable to all the other pains and penalties due to such a crime, and to *banishment for life* besides! Take care, master *Holt*! The prime minister is the *head* of the government, next after the king; to tend to bring *him* into contempt is surely to tend to bring the government into contempt; and, if accusing him, flatly and plainly, of "*absurdity*," which means *gross foolishness*, and to say,

farther, that it is only a "*waste of INK*," to notice him farther; if this do not *tend* to bring him into *contempt*, may I ask the Attorney General *what* can have that *tendency*?

Leaving this part of this "designing demagogue's" paper to the animadversions of the law, let us just look at the ground of his factious complaint, his "*pretended grievances*." What is this ground? Why, that *wheat* is selling at from *three shillings to five shillings a bushel*, and that *beef and mutton* are selling for *four-pence a pound*! This is a *grievance*, is it? Insolent man! I have often been accused by the sons of corruption of writing as if I had a *contempt* for the *understandings* of my readers; but, what contempt must this *man* have for, the *understandings* of the people! By the book of COMMON PRAYER we are taught to pray to God to cause "*dearth*" to cease; and to give him thanks for "*cheapness*." And here is this wretch calling upon us to oppose the measures which have made *dearth* to cease and which have given us *cheapness*! So that this man is guilty of *blasphemy* as well as of *sedition*! And, is he to escape? Is he not to be *prosecuted*? Is there no jail, no dungeon, for *him*?



He tells us, that "it is heart-rending to reflect how much is, and has been, suffered, and how many worthy and industrious men have been, and must be, ruined." Well; and, was it not heart-rending to reflect on the *dungeoning* of the reformers in 1817, under the power-of-imprisonment act? Is it not heart-rending to reflect on the state of the reformers now in dungeons, and on that of their wives and families? Is it not heart-rending to reflect on the sufferings of JOHN SWANN, sent by the Justices of Cheshire, in 1820, to pass FOUR YEARS AND A HALF in Chester Jail, while his wife and family are starving? Is it not heart-rending to reflect on the sufferings of the hundreds of men, women, and children, killed or wounded at Manchester on the never-to-be forgotten 16th of August? And yet, we never heard William Hott, or any of his new petitioning tribe, express any sorrow or any indignation at any of these things. Who, then, is to feel for him and his tribe?

Doubtless, there are many and a great many falling farmers worthy of compassion. But, they are not to be found amongst the greedy and villanous tribe who are striving to get a *Corn-Bill*. However, this project of theirs,

though it can do them no good, may, and must, if adopted, do the country harm. We must, therefore, oppose it with our petitions. I shall petition myself; and, in my next, I shall state to you the grounds, the heads, of my petition. You who are manufacturers, especially, should be prepared. Sign petitions in the same manner that you signed addresses to our lamented Queen. Get them ready in time, and send them, if you choose, up to me with instructions as to the members by whom you wish them to be presented. If you have other channels, it will be as well; but, if you have no other, avail yourselves of my offer. You will see the heads of my petition; and, if you approve of them, adopt them. The Merchants and Big-Manufacturers will petition too; and, pray, compel the haughty and insolent wretches to petition in company with you. As to reform of parliament, I do not advise you ever again to petition "the House" for that; but, this is a different matter; and, this matter ought not to go off without your having a great say in it.

But, the Debt is our great mark. "National faith" is our bulwark. We must neglect nothing to maintain that! One of the accusations against us, in 1817, was,

that we wanted to *destroy it!* What, destroy our only *sure friend!* The corn-bill fellows talk, in their private circles, of a *tax on the funds.* Oh, no! That is a *reduction of the interest.* A fool, a glaring fool, a great big bullet-headed fool, in Sussex, talked the other day of a *Property-Tax!* Now, if they lay a *tax on all property alike*, that will help away their estates even *more quickly than they are now going;* and, if they tax funded property *more heavily than other property*, then they *reduce the interest of the Debt!* And then, my lads, we will have the *feast of the Grid-iron!* Whether this be done or not, *this year*, it will be done, or *attempted, before May 1823;* and, we must work, in the manner hereafter to be shown, double tides, to prevent its being done, until we get a reform of the parliament.

In my next Register, I shall have a letter to *Lord Egremont* on his pretty speech at the *Lewes Agriculturass Meeting on the third instant.* But, in the meanwhile, let me communicate to you a most interesting fact. At the Lewes Meeting, a farmer, named *Ellman*, told the meeting, that *he* had, that morning, got a letter from *Mr. Webb Hall*, stating, that *Mr. Huskisson* had told him, that

"government" intended to "*propose,*" early in the next session, to lay a *tax* on foreign corn imported! Now, as to the *injustice* and the *cruelty* of such an *intention*, and as to the *inutility* and the *foolishness* of such a measure, I will speak of these in my Letter to *Lord Egremont;* but, my friends, pray look at, and pray enjoy with me, the fact (if it be true) of "*government,*" "*His Majesty's government,*" the great, big, bouncing, swaggering "*government,*" making such a communication to *Mr. Webb Hall!* He who had recently pretty well *basted* this same "*government*" and this same *Mr. Huskisson*, in a very foolish pamphlet! Faith! "*retrenchment,*" though *hardly begun*, makes the pretty gentlemen feel *queer* already. This, however, is only a sip out of that wide and deep joram of humiliation, which they have to swallow to the very dregs.

If you have my *Ten Letters to Landlords*, read them *attentively.* He who has them, let him *lend* them about, till worn out; for, *there* you will see the whole question, in all its parts, clearly to the bottom. You will see, not only that our foes deceive themselves, but *how it is* that they deceive themselves.

My friends, be of good cheer. Our most deadly foes are in confusion. They do not know which way to turn themselves. They wriggle and twist about upon their SEATS as if they were naked and sitting upon thorns. They would do well to *quit the seats* in time; for to remove the thorns they will find impossible; and, if they be *plucked* from their seats, they will leave the bleeding flesh behind them.

I am,  
Your faithful Friend,  
WM. COBBETT.

TO THE  
MONEY HOARDERS.

No. V.

MY GOOD FRIENDS,

IN great haste I inform you, that, when I was in London, last Sunday (this is Thursday, 13th Dec.) I heard, that which makes me seriously believe, that, when the parliament meets, an attempt will be made TO PUT A STOP TO THE ISSUE OF GOLD COIN! I assure you that I believe this; and my reasons for believing it are such as would convince you that the belief is well-founded; but, at present, without

injury to my "little bird," I cannot state those reasons.—If this take place, God knows what will follow! A sovereign will then be a precious possession! Perhaps two prices will come; and, then, good bye funding system! Then comes reform too! Look sharp: get the gold as fast as you can.

I am,  
Your faithful Friend,  
WM. COBBETT.

COBBETT'S  
LETTERS TO LANDLORDS  
AND FARMERS.

WE did not, owing to a mistake, fulfil my original intention of printing these Letters separately. They are now in ten Registers; and, of course, the price of them is five shillings.—Register No. 20 of Vol. 40, contains a Letter to the Sussex Farmers. Register of 15th Dec. contains a Letter to the Farmers of this Kingdom, and one to Mr. Webb Hall, and also remarks on Mr. Wm. Hott's address. Register of 22d Dec. will contain a Letter to Lord Egremont, on his speech at the meeting of the Sussex Farmers. Register of 29th Dec. will contain a Letter to Lord Grey on the only possible way of proceeding with effect to remedy the evils that now afflict

the nation.—I am perfectly convinced, that there requires, on the part of *the farmers*, only an attentive reading of these Letters, to save from ruin those of them who are not already ruined.

WM. COBBETT.

#### JOURNAL.

Since 3d Dec. I have been in *Kent*, and I am now in *Norfolk*. I shall, probably, continue my *Journal* next week; but, I must always make it give way to more important matter.

#### FARMERS' MEETING.

AFTER having taken the opinion of several gentlemen deeply interested in the fate of the Farmers, and anxious to assist in rescuing their neighbours from the jaws of ruin, I hereby invite *two farmers* from each county in England to come to London to compose a Meeting, to be held at the Crown and Anchor in the Strand, on the *Third Tuesday* after the day on which the next Session of Parliament shall begin.—I propose that we shall *dine together* (I being a farmer too), and that the tickets for the dinner shall be *half a sovereign*; which tickets will be prepared, and will be delivered at the places hereafter to be pointed out.—The main thing is to know, as soon as may be, *the names of the gentlemen who mean to come.*

We want no unfortunate men who are afraid of *landlords or parsons*. Those who are disposed to come will please to write to me, and inform me of their intention. If *more than two* choose to come from any county, there can be no objection.—It is too much to expect gentlemen to come from Scotland, Ireland, or even from Wales; but, if that should be convenient, it would be particularly agreeable to all parties.—The proposed objects of the meeting, are, to *take into consideration the state of the farmers*; and to consult respecting the *circulating of some short paper*, in the form of *Resolution*, or otherwise, calculated to make clear to the farmers the *true cause of low prices*, and thereby to enable them to take steps in time to *preserve themselves and families from utter ruin*.—However, the Meeting being once formed, any gentleman will be at liberty to suggest the taking of any other step that he may think likely to be beneficial.—I have not the vanity to think, that we shall form the most brilliant assembly that ever was heard of in the world; but, while we shall, I hope, show, that we possess *plain common sense*, we shall have the satisfaction of reflecting, that the *seats at our table* have not been filled by bribery and corruption.



DECEMBER 15, 1821.

## TULL'S HUSBANDRY.

To be published by Subscription.

I MEAN to do this as soon as I have a sufficiency of names, that I know something of, to secure me against all risk of loss. For some time, indeed ever since the publication of my *Year's Residence in America*, I have been receiving applications to republish TULL. These applications are now more pressing than ever; which is very natural, seeing that, at this moment, there are, in several parts of England, to my knowledge, the finest crops of Swedish Turnips, standing in rows at the *Tullian distances*, that, I believe, ever stood upon the face of the earth. Another reason, doubtless is, that the old folio copies that remain amongst the booksellers, one of which I bought in 1812, for seven shillings, now cannot be had under thirty shillings; such has been the rise in its price since I mentioned it in print. There was an Octavo edition published about 20 or 30 years ago; but, in this, is omitted what the editor calls the "*controversial part*;" and this part is, as it happens, a very essential part of the work; because it explains many things that the author had not sufficiently explained at first; and refutes the erroneous notions that were at work against his system,

many of which erroneous notions still prevail but too generally.

I propose to re-publish the whole of the book, except the part which relates to the construction of drills and other implements. This is unnecessary, seeing, that, in this respect, we have far surpassed Mr. TULL, who, being a Lawyer too (would to God that Lawyers were always as usefully employed!) was the first inventor of a drill; which drill, or the principal part of which, he made out of the barrel of an organ that he happened to have in his possession; which shows, by the bye, that even organs may be made good for something. This was the first drill that ever was made. The agriculture in England had been, up to that time, very nearly what the Romans had introduced; and, as TULL clearly shows, all their erroneous notions had been most faithfully handed down to us from father to son.

TULL went abroad for his health, and, being in the South of France, he observed, that the vineyards were tilled, in the spring and summer, while the vines were producing their fruit. He observed, too, that those vineyards had the best crops and finest fruit that were best and most deeply tilled. On his return to England he applied this sort of cultivation to corn, turnips, Saint Foin and Lucerne; and his book contains an account of the means, the manner, and the result.

But, the chief excellence of the

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work is, that it shows *why* the thing is as it is; that it shows the *causes*; that it does not lay down *rules*, but lays down and inculcates *principles*. It begins with *roots*, then goes to *leaves*, then to the *food of plants*, and the manner in which the food is conveyed into the body. And this is done, too, in so plain a manner, with such elegant simplicity of language, that, after reading his book, one turns with disgust from the dark and deep, the at once lofty and low, jargon of the present day. Even as a piece of *style*; as a thing to discipline the mind to attention; as something to give it a relish for the solids of writing; as a thing to settle the head; even as such only, this book ought to be read by every young man and by every young woman too. Besides, in what rank of life can either ever be placed to render the first principles of Husbandry and Gardening, these sources of all our food and raiment, wholly useless and unenterprising?

When I last went to America there had never been a field of Swedish Turnips in that country. Now, there are thousands upon thousands of such fields, all cultivated in the Tullian manner; and I have just heard of a prodigious crop in Louisiana (almost under the tropics) raised from seed which I imported from England. The "*Year's Residence*," in which I gave an account of my Long-Island crops, has induced many gentlemen in England

to try the method. I have this year seen, in Norfolk, crops of Swedish Turnips such as, I believe, never were seen *even there* before. I have heard of crops of cabbages, cultivated according to my book, that would appear incredible, if not warranted upon unquestionable authority. In Surrey and in Sussex there are some striking proofs of the excellence of the Tullian cultivation. And, I hear that, in Herefordshire, there are crops of the same description. I shall, by and by, collect the facts. This, besides being a public duty, is also a private one; for, when the "*Year's Residence*" at first appeared, that blind guide, that compound of folly and malice, "*The Farmer's Journal*," treated my book as a *romance* and me as a *liar*.

However, as I have always said, though a great observer of, and taking great delight in, all things belonging to husbandry and gardening, I really was ignorant of the principles, till I read TULL, which I did not do till 1812. There are many things, to which, in detail, his work cannot apply. In his time that great article, the Swedish Turnip, was unknown in England; and no man had ever thought of raising cabbages, carrots and parsnips for cattle, sheep and hogs to eat. One thing is *my own*; and that is, transplanting in dry weather in preference to wet. The rest belongs to TULL.

The book will form a large octavo volume; and the price cannot well

DECEMBER 15, 1821.

be less, and shall not be more, than *twelve shillings* to the subscribers. As soon as I have names enough to secure me against loss, I shall begin to print; and when begun, the work will not be more than *thirty days in printing*.

Gentlemen who may choose to subscribe will please to leave their names with Mr. JOHN COBBETT, at "The Register" Office, No. 1, *Clement's Inn*, or to send them to him by post, *postage paid*. No money will be asked for until the work be ready for delivery. Those who *intend* to have the book, will please to observe, that the *sooner* they send their names, the sooner the work will go to the press.

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### WRITS.

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TO MR. COBBETT.

SIR, *London, 9th Dec. 1821.*

I HAVE just read your Journal of the 15th November, contained in the Register of yesterday.—You state: "I have a Letter from London, which tells me, that there are eight hundred Writs less issued, or returnable, or whatever it is, this Term than last."—As far as it goes, your information is correct; but, your correspondent should have said, that in Trinity Vacation last there were eight hundred *Bills of Middlesex* less issued, than there were in Trinity Vacation

1820! A Bill of Middlesex, is a Process issuing from the Court of King's Bench, and operative in the county of Middlesex ONLY. Writs from the Courts of Common Pleas, and Exchequer, are also operative in Middlesex; therefore, considering the quantum of business now doing in those two Courts together, to be nearly equal to the business of the Court of King's Bench, and assuming, as it is fair to do, that the defalcation of Writs is also equal, we shall find the total falling off in Middlesex alone to have been *sixteen* hundred, instead of eight. In all probability, out of those sixteen hundred Writs, two hundred, or more, of the Actions would have gone on to trial; and as there are generally *two* Briefs delivered to Counsel in each action on the part of the Plaintiff, and one, if not two, on the part of the Defendant, here is a falling off of *five hundred* Briefs at the least, in one Term, and for one County!! But, taking the country throughout (including Wales) what must the decrease in Briefs be! What havoc of long robes and perukes! The Bar alone is not, however, the only sufferer—the Attorneys, and Law Offices, feel the change full as much, if not to a *much greater degree*. Your description, therefore, of "legal distress" is *very much under-rated*.

I am, Sir,

Yours ever,

FIDELIS.

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THE  
OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE  
NAVY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
JANUARY 1, 1911

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst. in relation to the above subject.

The Bureau is at present unable to furnish the information requested, but will endeavor to do so as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,  
J. D. LONG  
Secretary of the Navy